

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claim 24, and add new Claims 29-31, as follows.

1-23. (Canceled)

24. (Currently Amended) A diffractive optical element, characterized by a diffraction grating portion which includes first and second transparent diffraction gratings, wherein the first transparent diffraction grating and a first transparent alignment pattern are integrally formed of a first resin, on a first glass substrate, by molding, and the second transparent diffraction grating and a second transparent alignment pattern are integrally formed of a ~~resin~~ second resin having a refractive index smaller than that of the first resin and having an Abbe constant larger than that of the first resin, on a second glass substrate, by molding, and wherein the first and second transparent diffraction gratings are accumulated so that the first transparent alignment pattern engages the second transparent alignment pattern,

wherein the first and second transparent diffraction gratings are accumulated with an air space, and

wherein the first and second diffraction gratings are disposed opposed to each other.

25-27. (Cancelled)

28. (Previously Presented) An optical system, comprising:

a lens; and

a diffractive optical element as recited in Claim 24.

29. (New) In a method of manufacturing an optical element by forming, on a first periodic structure, a second periodic structure on the basis of molding, said method comprising:

performing alignment of a mold to be used for the molding of the second periodic structure, by use of an alignment mark provided on a substrate on which the first periodic structure is formed.

30. (New) A method according to Claim 29, wherein the alignment is accomplished by bringing a predetermined portion of the mold for the second periodic structure into engagement with the alignment mark.

31. (New) A method according to Claim 29, wherein the first and second periodic structures comprise a diffraction grating.